

Interactive comment on “Perspectives on contextual vulnerability in discourses of climate conflict” by U. T. Okpara et al.

M. McDonald (Referee)

matt.mcdonald@uq.edu.au

Received and published: 5 January 2016

This paper explores representations of vulnerability in discourses of climate conflict. In the process, it provides both a useful account of the contours of key climate-conflict discourses, and makes a strong case for consideration of how vulnerability is presented as a component of these discourses. The paper combines detailed empirical examination of a large body of literature with a strong conceptual framework built on a compelling conception of discourse and discourse analysis.

My main question by the end of the paper concerned the issue of implications for policy responses. With an increasing focus among UN agencies, the G7 and European governments in particular on addressing questions of state fragility in the context of

C1021

climate change, what implications does this analysis have for the ways in which key institutions/ actors should engage either climate policy or the 'needs-based agenda' endorsed in the paper as associated with climate conflict? And how would the conclusions fit with recent high-profile accounts of the relationship between climate, conflict, 'fragility' and vulnerability and responses to them (such as the G7 commissioned report A New Climate for Peace, eg)?

Ultimately, this is a compelling and well-written paper that provides a much-needed focus on vulnerability as a defining component of key climate-security discourses.

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Dynam. Discuss., 6, 2543, 2015.

C1022